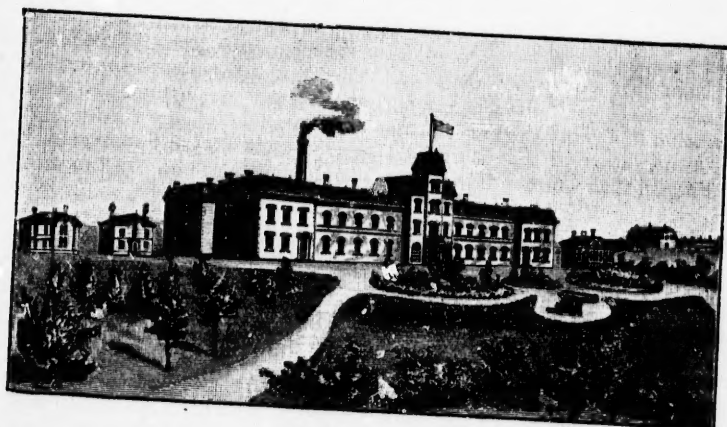


ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, ONT.

SHORT COURSE FOR TEACHERS.

July, 1894,



OFFICERS.

JAMES MILLS, M.A., LL.D.	President.
J. HOYES PANTON, M.A., F.G.S.	Professor of Geology and Natural History.
A. E. SHUTTLEWORTH, B.A. Sc.	Professor of Chemistry.
J. HUGO REED, V.S.	Professor of Veterinary Science.
H. H. DEAN, B.S.A.	Professor of Dairy Husbandry.
J. B. REYNOLDS, B.A.	Assistant Resident Master.
WILLIAM RENNIE.	Farm Superintendent.
C. A. ZAVITZ, B.S.A.	Experimentalist.
G. E. DAY, B.S.A.	Lecturer on Agriculture.
H. L. HUTT, B.S.A.	Lecturer on Horticulture.
R. HARCOURT, B.S.A.	Assistant Chemist.
CAPTAIN WALTER CLARKE	Instructor in Drill and Gymnastics.
A. MCCALLUM	Bursar.

AGRICULTURE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SHORT COURSE FOR TEACHERS.

JULY, 1894.

Our short course for teachers in July, 1893, was a success. The attendance was not large; but those who spent the month with us expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the attention and instruction which they received. They found their surroundings at the College very pleasant, and they obtained much valuable information in a short time and without the payment of any tuition fees. As the nature of this course is now somewhat better understood, it is hoped that we may have all we can accommodate on the 2nd July next.

In stating the reasons for this course and the object aimed at, I think I cannot do better than repeat the substance of last year's circular.

The great majority of the people of this province are dependent on our Public Schools for the whole of their secular education. They have not the time or the means to attend a High School, an Agricultural College, or a University. With such instruction and training as they get in the Public Schools, they are expected to discharge the duties of citizenship and make an honest living for themselves and their families. Hence the Public Schools are in some respects the most important schools in the country; and in connection with these schools, two things are of the greatest moment: (1) That the course of study be the best possible, and (2) that the teachers be fully equipped for their work.

The primary aim of Public School teachers should undoubtedly be to teach well the elements of a general English education—to give a thorough, exact, and practical course of instruction in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, English grammar, composition, and geography; in other words, to make all their scholars good readers, good writers, correct spellers, good arithmeticians, and correct, if not elegant, speakers and writers of English. This work is of fundamental importance, and nothing should be allowed to interfere with it in any

Public School. We insist upon it as the first duty of all Public School teachers; but, at the same time, we maintain that, in this Province at least, there is also another duty, which, though secondary, is by no means unimportant, viz., to consider the occupation which most of our children will follow on leaving school, and, as far as possible, give them instruction, not only in the elements of a general education, but also in some of the principles that underlie successful practice in the industry by means of which they will have to earn a livelihood for themselves and those depending upon them.

Two things should not be forgotten: (1) That farming is the main industry in Ontario; (2) That whatever improves the condition of farmers and makes them more successful workers, benefits all classes of the people. These are facts which no one will question; and, because of their importance, some of our best educators and wisest statesmen are of opinion that the teachers in the Public Schools of this Province should, incidentally or otherwise, give some instruction in agriculture and one or two of the sciences related thereto; should impart as much reliable information as possible about agricultural pursuits; and do all in their power to inspire their pupils with a love for the simplicity, independence, and healthfulness of farm life.

Realizing the importance of this work and believing that valuable instruction in agriculture may be given by simple lectures to children—conversations on soils, plants, and animals—so simple that even the lower classes in a Public School may understand, so attractive as to interest the youngest scholars, and of such a character as to benefit all kinds of pupils, whatever their occupation in after life—the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, with the hearty co-operation of the Minister of Education, has instructed our staff at the Ontario Agricultural College to offer, to the teachers of Ontario, a short summer course of instruction in agriculture and the sciences most closely related thereto.

Object of the Course.—To show how agriculture and kindred branches of knowledge may be taught by simple talks to pupils in Rural Schools and to furnish information that will serve as a basis for such talks, say the last hour of each Friday afternoon—geology and chemistry in the fall, live stock and dairying in the winter, botany and entomology in the spring.

Subjects.—Agriculture, Dairying, Agricultural Chemistry, Geology, Botany and Entomology.

Practical Work.—The forenoons will be devoted to lectures; the afternoons and Saturdays, to geological and botanical excursions in charge of a professor, a certain amount of practical work in laboratories, and observation trips in gardens, fields, and experimental plots.

Time.—The course will extend throughout the month of July, commencing on Monday, the 2nd, and ending on the 31st.

Expenses, Etc.—There will be no tuition fee. Teachers to the number of 50, male or female, will be provided with rooms and board in the College, for which there will be a charge of \$12, payable in advance to the Bursar. Washing will be done in the College laundry and charged extra at moderate rates. Sheets and towels, four of each, must be provided by applicants for admission.

The surroundings of the College are pleasant, and of such a character that, in addition to the direct instruction gained by attendance upon lectures, much valuable information may be acquired by observation in the different departments of the Institution—the farm, dairy, arboretum, gardens, greenhouses, laboratories, etc.

Candidates for admission will please fill out the enclosed application and send it to the President at the earliest date possible.

For further information apply to

JAMES MILLS,
President.

Ontario Agricultural College,
GUELPH, April 15th. 1894.

